

extracted from public lands, which is required under current law and has resulted in billions in additional revenue for states over the past five years.

The bottom-line with this bill, however, is that—as its previous incarnations have done—it reinforces the wrong priorities at the expense of consumers, the environment, and American taxpayers. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 6.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
HITCHHIKERS, ROBOTICS TEAM 481

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Hitchhikers, Robotics Team 481, from my congressional district in California. This team won the Engineering Inspiration Award in March of 2005 at the Portland, Oregon, Pacific Northwest Regional Robotics Competition. This award honors success in advancing the science of robotics. By winning this award, the Hitchhikers, Robotics Team 481, qualified to compete in the Championship Robotics Competition in Atlanta, Georgia, where they came in second out of 52 teams in the first round of competition.

The Hitchhikers were created in an independent study course at Contra Costa College, San Pablo, California in the fall of 2002. Under the stewardship of Tom Murphy, a contra Costa College Instructor, Middle College formed its own FIRST robotics team, based on a commitment that the students would build a robot from the ground up. In December 2002, a grant from Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers provided initial funding for the Hitchhikers, and the team received its first robot-building supplies in January 2003. In 2004, budget woes triggered a merge with another award-winning team at nearby De Anza High School, with the hopes of keeping robotics alive for students throughout the school district. The students of the merged team resolved to keep De Anza's number 481 and Middle College's name "The Hitchhikers" as a sign of their unity. Since then, the team has connected with local and national supporters. Other sponsors of The Hitchhikers, Team 481, are NASA Robotics Education Project, the Ed Fund (West Contra Costa Public Education Fund), Chevron Richmond Refinery, TAP Plastics of El Cerrito, Planner's Collaborative of Boston, MA and Honda of El Cerrito.

The majority of Robotics Team 481's members are sophomores, juniors and seniors at Middle College, located on the Contra Costa College campus in San Pablo, California. Students also come from nearby De Anza, El Cerrito, and Pinole Valley high schools. The Middle College robotics team was created to help its members learn and understand scientific and engineering concepts while building team- and group-work skills. The Hitchhikers, Robotics Team 481, have managed to accomplish all this and have fun at the same time.

The Hitchhikers, Robotics Team 481, competed in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) National Championship in the Georgia Dome, Atlanta Georgia, April 21–23. FIRST, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, is an organization founded

on the sole principle of inspiring young people to find an interest in Science and Technology and using this knowledge in all aspects of life.

Please join me in saluting The Hitchhikers, Robotics Team 481 on their excellent performance in this national robotics competition.

CONGRATULATING PARIS JUNIOR
COLLEGE ON WINNING NATIONAL
BASKETBALL TITLE

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Paris Junior College Dragons on winning the 2005 National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball championship on March 26 in Hutchinson, Kansas. This was the biggest win in the school's history and only the second trip for the Dragons to the national tournament, some 46 years from their first visit in 1959.

The Dragons ended their season with nine consecutive wins and set a school record with 28 victories in a season. They were unranked in the national tournament and beat two ranked teams before taking on 16th-ranked Moberly Area Community College, Mo., during the NJCAA Division 1 Men's Tournament championship game. They won by a score of 70–61.

Paris Junior College coach Bill Foy won the Coach of the Tournament award and subsequently was named the National Association of Basketball Coaches Junior College Coach of the Year. Rod Earls was named the William E. French Most Valuable Player, averaging 13 points a game to lead Paris Junior College in scoring and contributing 10 points in the championship game. Alexander Starr received the Charles Fesher Sportsmanship Award and scored 10 points in the tournament final. Mike Battle scored 5 points in the final game and also was named to the all-tournament team.

The leading scorer for Paris was Lamar Searight with 18 points. Other players who contributed to the victory included Brian Burrell, Donnell Franklyn, Rickey Quarles, Bobby Joshua, Tyler Best and Charles Stoker. Joel Green and Albert Reese also are members of the team.

Coach Foy also acknowledged all those whose efforts and support contributed to the team's outstanding season: Assistant Coach Brad Enright, Athletic Director Jim Moffitt, Dr. Pam Anglin, President, and student assistants Tyler Easthouse and Patrick Thompson, among others.

Mr. Speaker, the faculty and students at Paris Junior College, local citizens and loyal fans in Northeast Texas take great pride in their National Junior College Basketball Championship team. I want to take this opportunity in the House of Representatives to congratulate the Paris Junior College basketball players and coaches for their spectacular victory, commend them for their hard work and determination, and wish them continued success.

IN HONOR OF LARRY L. WEYERS

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize before this body Mr. Larry Weyers, who on May 2nd will be named the 2005 Free Enterprise Award winner by the Rotary Foundation of Green Bay.

For the last 23 years, the Green Bay Rotary has honored one Brown County resident who has demonstrated leadership in local charitable, civic, government or service programs, while helping expand business and employment throughout the area. In other words, the award winner is someone who exemplifies American free enterprise.

This year, Larry Weyers earned that distinguished honor. As the Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of WPS Resources Corporation, Larry has helped his company grow to become one of the most successful businesses in Wisconsin. Under his leadership, corporate assets at WPS have nearly tripled, revenues have quadrupled, net income has tripled, and the company's market value has doubled.

But the success of WPS under Larry's direction is secondary to his role in the community. As an active member of dozens of charitable and civic groups, Larry has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of his neighbors. His commitment to the city of Green Bay and Brown County serves as an example to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no better individual to receive this award than Larry Weyers, and on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District I say congratulations.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF BLACKSTONE DILWORTH

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the tremendous achievements of Blackstone Dilworth, Junior Achievement of Laredo Business Hall of Fame Laureate.

Mr. Dilworth has been a proud resident of Live Oak County, Texas, for more than 50 years, but he has a special place in his heart for the people of Laredo, the city which he has made his second home. He began his career working as a farm and ranch appraiser in the border country of Texas, an area in which his family has worked for many years.

He has managed a series of successful businesses, including a number of ranching operations, oil and gas concerns, a telecommunications construction company, and property development. Throughout his career, he has relied on his belief that opportunity is everywhere, for those who are willing to look. He is known to say: "In every problem, somewhere hidden is an opportunity."

Mr. Dilworth loves to travel, and has a deep appreciation for the culture of South and Central America. He is a member of the Explorers Club of New York. He lives with his wife near

Sandia, and has two children and three grandchildren.

Through his initiative, energy, and audacity, Mr. Blackstone Dilworth has contributed enormously to Texas' economic health and vitality. He is a pillar of the business community, and a model for entrepreneurs everywhere, and I am pleased to have the chance to honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed nine votes on April 20th, 2005 because I was attending an important family event with my 12-year-old daughter. The votes were on amendments to the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (H.R. 6). Had I been present I would have voted yea on rollcall Nos. 115, 116, 117, 118, 120, 121, 122, 123. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 119.

LOOSEN THE GAS PRICE NOOSE!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, a gallon of regular gas in San Diego or Imperial Valley has been hovering around the outrageous price of \$2.50, often reaching even higher. Even as the price per barrel of oil declines, the price at our local gas stations stays sky-high.

Every time one of my constituents drives to work, drops a child off at school or drives away on vacation, hard-earned dollars go up in smoke. When our grocery stores have to pay more to get their groceries shipped in, they pass the extra cost on to their shoppers. What's the result? The whopping price of gas is choking our middle and working class—essentially levying a new tax when we can least afford it and boosting the profits of the oil companies!

This is simply unacceptable. We must continue to fight to lower the price of gas and protect consumers. One year ago I called on the Bush Administration to take several steps to loosen the gas price noose, including suspending deliveries to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; requesting an investigation of market failures and lack of competition; blocking mergers that allow oil companies to manipulate supplies; and implementing strong fuel economy standards to put more efficient and environmentally friendly cars on the road and lower consumption.

An investigation by the Federal Trade Commission in August was inconclusive, and the White House has failed to take any steps to rein in oil companies or reduce gas prices. The energy bill we are considering this week also fails to responsibly tackle this problem, instead offering the same favors to oil companies. In the absence of effective leadership, consumers remain at the mercy of the price-gougers.

That's why I have now appealed directly to the Federal Trade Commission and the Attor-

ney General to launch a broader investigation to determine whether the oil companies have engaged in illegal or anti-competitive practices that contribute to the high gas prices.

Additionally, I am fighting for passage of legislation known as the Gas Price Spike Act, that would implement a windfall tax when oil companies collect excessive profits, provide a tax credit for fuel efficient vehicles, and offer federal grants to reduce mass transit fares.

I call on Congress and the Administration to support me in these efforts to inject fairness and competition into the market and end price gouging at the gas pump!

FLEXIBILITY FOR CHAMPION SCHOOLS ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer the Flexibility for Champion Schools Act (H.R. 1821).

Mr. Speaker, on January 8, 2002, the President signed the No Child Left Behind Act, commonly referred to as N-C-L-B. I was fortunate enough to have served on the House Education and the Workforce Committee, which considered the details of this domestic policy proposal put forth by the President.

The goals of N-C-L-B were and are laudable. According to the Department of Education, the No Child Left Behind Act gives our schools historic education reform based on stronger accountability for results, more freedom for states and communities, encourages proven educational methods, and creates more choices for parents.

However, one of the major tenants of N-C-L-B, its FLEXIBILITY to treat different states fairly while maintaining the goals of the underlying legislation; has not been a priority for the Department. A law that was originally intended to react like a rubber-band, to bend but not break, has unfortunately been implemented rigidly and is intolerant of states like Virginia, who had previously administered high testing and accountability standards.

Mr. Speaker, with any new law, especially one as sweeping as N-C-L-B, some hurdles will have to be overcome. To jump through these hurdles, my colleagues and I have attempted to work with the Department to resolve some of these problems. After meeting with some superintendents in my district, we began a dialogue to work through issues that were specific to states like Virginia, which already had high standards in place.

We recently learned of the Secretary's intent to "take into account each state's unique situation" to implement the law. Earlier this year, the Virginia Department of Education proposed a series of waivers that would allow N-C-L-B's goals to mesh with the state's already high standards. Unfortunately, not less than a week after the Secretary's promises of flexibility, the Department rejected the first request for flexibility—one to waive certain assessments of limited English proficiency students in grades K-1 in reading and writing. Mr. Speaker, these are non-English speakers who are 5 years old. I do not believe this demonstrates the flexibility intended by members who supported N-C-L-B.

Without this flexibility, I believe the law is inefficient and duplicative for parents, teachers, students, and state education officers. So we have reached this point where N-C-L-B needs to have a mechanism to recognize the role of certain states in providing accountability. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we have stood by too long waiting for this flexibility. Our bill does not "water down" N-L-C-B provisions, or its intent. If certain states do not have strong accountability standards, then N-L-C-B is directed at them. But when we have schools in Virginia passing one standard but failing another, sometimes based solely on the results of one student from one particular subgroup, we need to act.

To address these problems, I offer with my colleagues, Representatives JOANN DAVIS, VIRGIL GOODE, JIM MORAN, THELMA DRAKE and RICK BOUCHER, the Flexibility for Champion Schools Act.

The legislation provides that a State which meets certain requirements shall be granted a waiver from the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) provisions of No Child Left Behind.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DIANA DAY OF BILL BROWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the exemplary work of Diana Day, Bill Brown Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Diana Day earned her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from Texas A&I in Corpus Christi. Currently serving as a special education teacher in Comal Independent School District, she has over 9 years of experience.

She teaches Behavior Life Skills to students in grades kindergarten through four, and believes in teaching her students how to solve problems. Each child is an individual, and Ms. Day believes that the best way to teach each of them is through a unique approach. She wants to help teach each of her students the joys of reading and learning on their own. Diana Day works hard empowering young minds and teaching them the skills that they need to be successful in school.

I am honored to have the chance to recognize the accomplishments of Diana Day, the Bill Brown Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Her passion for education has helped to ensure that our children are on the right track.

TRIBUTE TO ROELAND PARK, KANSAS, MAYOR LORI HIRONS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Roeland Park, Kansas, Mayor Lori Hirons, who recently left elective office after 4 years of service as mayor, 8 as a city councilmember and 1 year of service on the Roeland Park zoning appeals board.